

Older Children²⁶

1. Encourage reading for the fun of it as a free-time activity, and keep books in your home.
2. Talk with and listen to your children. Language is like a four-legged stool: speaking, listening, reading, and writing are its parts, and each supports the other.
3. Read with your children every chance you get—even if it's just part of a newspaper article at the breakfast table - and turn off the TV when you do it.
4. Set the example: be sure your children see you reading and understand that you read for enjoyment and to get needed information.
5. Monitor your children's schoolwork and applaud their efforts.



Middle and High School

According to research, parent engagement greatly decreases as students move from elementary to middle school to high school. However, research has shown that parents hold a significant influence over their adolescent student's school performance. Parent engagement throughout middle and high school can contribute to increased academic success.

At the middle school level, it is especially important for parents to:²⁷

- discuss school activities.
- monitor out-of-school activities.
- contact school staff.
- volunteer and attend parent-teacher conferences and other school events.

At the high school level, it is especially important for parents to:²⁸

- guide their student toward postsecondary education.
- make sure they read and do their homework.
- stress the value of education.

Additional information & Resources

1. The Parent's Guide to Middle School:
<http://www.education.com/grade/middle-school/>
2. The Parent's Guide to High School: <http://www.education.com/grade/high-school/>
4. A Parent's Guide to the Teen Brain <http://teenbrain.drugfree.org/>